

Application No. 10/032,067
Reply to Office Action of December 9, 2003

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Prosecution has been reopened based on Japanese publication 47-31773 filed on August 28, 2003. Specifically, Claims 1-10, 18, 21-24 and 31-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 1-2 as being anticipated by JP '773, particularly by Figures 8 and 10 of the reference.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Wright for the courtesy of an interview on April 14, 2004, at which time the outstanding rejection was discussed. At that time, applicants pointed out differences between the invention and JP '773, including the fact that the field winding GF of JP '773 rotates with the wheels. In contrast, the stator of the presently disclosed generator 6 is fixed (see page 12, lines 18-19). The rejected claims have therefore been amended to recite that the generator has a fixed stator, and so distinguish over this reference. Moreover, as was discussed during the interview, providing a fixed field winding FG would not have been obvious in JP '773 since field winding FG rotates with the driven wheels (this would lock the wheels, rendering the system inoperative). It was therefore agreed during the interview that the amended claims define over JP '773.